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as a cause, Masslow finds to be the pressure of population upon the land. This is supplemented in modern western nations by capitalism. Capitalism differs from the ancient systems of exploitation based on the ownership of land as a dynamic force, because the law of increasing returns which prevails in industry compels an ever-increasing investment of capital to meet competition. Capitalism arises first in foreign trade where the difference in productivity of different nations enables the capitalist to make a profit. It is extended to domestic trade when pressure of population enables the capitalist to purchase labor power below its value. But the author fails to explain why in some times and places pressure of population has failed to produce a great capitalistic development, and he ignores the influences which scarcity of labor in contrast with scarcity of natural resources has exerted upon technical development in new countries such as the United States.

Part III is an exposition of the thesis that a relative increase in consumption by the working class accelerates economic progress while a relative increase in consumption by the capitalist class hinders it, because the products consumed by the workers can be produced by machinery, and hence increased demand by the workers stimulates technical development, whereas the increased income of capitalists is expended largely for personal services and for luxuries, in the production of which machinery is unimportant.

The book is narrow in its point of view, being confined to the few factors in economic evolution which the author has chosen, and consequently gives little hint of the complexity of the problem with which it deals. The author's socialistic bias in some places renders his analysis naïve. He exhibits the exasperating tendency so prevalent among socialistic theorists of slipping lightly over the precise points on which explanation is most earnestly desired. On the whole, however, the work is an acute and suggestive analysis.

La Force motrice. By G. OLPHE-GALLIARD. Paris: Giard et Brière, 1915. 8vo, pp. 310. Paper, Fr. 7. Cloth, Fr. 8.

This work analyzes the conditions which have led to the use of different forms of motive power in industry and transportation, the advantages and disadvantages of each, and their influence upon the size of the productive units and the geographical concentration or dispersion of industry. It touches very briefly upon the broader economic and social effects of the new forms of power. The work discusses animal power, water power, steam, compressed air, gas, and electricity, but over two-thirds of the space is devoted to electricity.

The principal thesis of the work is that the development of new forms of power has not been a fundamental cause of the new industrial régime, but that both the new industrial order and the new forms of power are the result of the extension of the market, and that development of new forms of power has simply reinforced the tendencies initiated by the extension of the market. The author points out that in some cases the different forms of power have remained

known but unapplied for some time and that in many cases the application of a method of power production is the result rather than the cause of the invention of new machinery.

Some of the most interesting chapters in the book are devoted to the question whether electricity with its superiority to steam for small industries may lead to a revival of house industry or small factories. In two most interesting chapters the author examines the reasons for the survival of the house industry in the St. Etienne riband manufacture, and for its decline in the Lyons silk industry. His conclusion which he believes applies to the situation in general is that the survival or decline depends upon market conditions of such fundamental importance that electricity is either unnecessary in order to maintain the industry or powerless to arrest its decline.

The attempt to distinguish between prime and secondary causes of industrial development seems a hopeless task. The author does not succeed, but in his attempt he assembles a considerable material concerning the chronology of the application of various forms of power and of their growth in use, which is of great interest. Unfortunately, this material is largely confined to the textile industries so that from this work one learns relatively little concerning the use of power in other industries. The concise but fairly detailed discussions of the technical advantages and disadvantages of the various methods of power production render the work a valuable source of condensed technical information on power production.

Standards of Health Insurance. By I. M. RUBINOW. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1916. 8vo, pp. v+322. \$1.50 net.

This study is for the most part an expansion of a series of articles that was published in the *Journal of Political Economy* for March, April, and May, 1915, under the title of "Standards of Sickness Insurance." Though material has been added in practically all of the divisions of the work, additional statistical tables introduced, and some of the old tables rearranged and corrected, the treatment of the question and the conclusions drawn are essentially those of the articles. The chapter "Administrative Organization" is new, as are also the two appendixes "Constitutionality of Health Insurance" by Joseph P. Chamberlain, and "Organization of Medical Aid" by Alexander Lambert. The plan of the work has been more clearly outlined for the hasty reader by advancing some of the original subtitles to the position of chapter headings while subordinating others to them. In general the book deals with the need in this country for health insurance, and advances arguments that it should be compulsory; questions to whom it should apply, and for what purposes; discusses benefits to be given; and considers organization and administration problems and plans. The subject is one likely to be of increasing importance during the present year since it is receiving notice by the legislatures of several of the states, and since action by these legislatures has been opposed by the